

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM  
FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

FINAL

STATE:
COUNTY: Indiana
Marion FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME	
COMMON: Federal Building	
AND/OR HISTORIC: United States Courthouse and Post Office	

2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 46 East Ohio Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Indianapolis		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 11th Indiana	
STATE: Indiana	CODE 18	COUNTY: Marion	CODE 097

3. CLASSIFICATION				
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

4. AGENCY			
General Services Administration			
REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)		STREET AND NUMBER:	
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:	CODE

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:			
Recorder's Office City-County Building			
STREET AND NUMBER: 200 East Washington Street		CITY OR TOWN: Indianapolis	
STATE: Indiana		CODE 18	

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY: Indiana - Historic Preservation Programs and Survey			
DATE OF SURVEY: Jan. 1973 <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana			
STREET AND NUMBER: 3402 Boulevard Place		CITY OR TOWN: Indianapolis	
STATE: Indiana		CODE 18	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The building, located on the block bounded by Ohio St., Meridian St., Pennsylvania St., and New York St., was designed to house federal courts, offices, and the main city postoffice. These functions were accommodated in a four-story extended U-shaped building 91 ft. high, 172.5 ft. wide, and 355.5 ft. long, with its symmetrical long facade facing south on to Ohio Street. The structure is of steel, the floors and flat roof of reinforced concrete, and the exterior walls are sheathed in Indiana limestone detailed in the Italian Renaissance style. The classic dignity of the rhythmic Ionic pilastered facade is enhanced by a raised stone-balustraded terrace regularly punctuated with bronze light fixtures. A heavy classical cornice terminates the vertical thrust of the pilasters and provides an appropriate cap to the monumental facade. The construction of a five-story addition, completed in 1938, closes the original U-shaped plan, creating a light court for the upper floors and extending the classic facade around the building. The two main entrances, at either end of the south facade, are accented by pairs of heroic statues by John Massey Rhinde, leading into the Bedford stone-vaulted entrance lobbies.

The first floor and basement originally housed the post office. Ornate glass mosaic ceiling designs, marble-clad and pilastered walls and intricate marble floor patterns decorated the first floor public corridors. The original marble floors were replaced with terazzo flooring of similar design in 1963. An important interior feature is a set of two two-story self supporting curving marble staircases that flank the entrance lobbies.

The second floor houses the Department of Justice quarters, including two federal courtrooms. The third, fourth, and partial fifth floors house federal offices. The Law Library, originally described as the most handsome space in the building, but now greatly altered, is located in the center front of the second floor. The west courtroom contains an impressive array of decorations, including behind the bench a large mural "Appeal to Justice" by W. B. Van Ingen, a pupil of Thomas Eakins whose murals decorate several federal buildings, including the Congressional Library in Washington. The walls of this courtroom feature gray and white marble pilasters with bases and Corinthian capitals of bronze, separated by mahogany-framed gold-brocaded panels. Above the pilasters are painted the seals of the 13 original colonies and the state of Indiana. The 30-foot ceiling is divided into circular and octagonal panels, decorated with classic motifs and illuminated in gold and silver. Two large stained-glass windows, massive mahogany furnishings, marble floor and intricate bronze rail and additional testimony to the tasteful opulence of this noteworthy climax of monumental government architecture in the early 20th century.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## 8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian☐ 16th Century☐ 18th Century☒ 20th Century☐ 15th Century☐ 17th Century☐ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

1905

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Aboriginal☐ Education☐ Political☐ Urban Planning☐ Prehistoric☐ Engineering☐ Religion/Phi-☐ Other (Specify)☐ Historic☐ Industry☐ losophy☐ Agriculture☐ Invention☐ Science☒ Architecture☐ Landscape☐ Sculpture☒ Art☐ Architecture☐ Social/Human-☐ Commerce☐ Literature☐ itarian☐ Communications☐ Military☐ Theater☐ Conservation☐ Music☐ Transportation

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Federal Building is an excellent example of the Classic Revival style popular for public buildings at the turn of the century. Its interior is noted for two handsome self-supporting marble stairways, ornate mosaic tile clad vaulted ceilings, and trim of imported and domestic marble and carved wood, all representative of opulent public architecture of the early 20th century.

The site for the U.S. Courthouse Postoffice Building was purchased in 1900 for \$626,000 under the authorization of a congressional appropriation bill passed on March 1, 1899. The original section of the building was designed by the Philadelphia architects John Hall Rankin and Thomas W. Kellog. The John Pierce Co. of New York submitted the lowest construction bid for the project -- \$1,267,530 for the building exclusive of art work, equipment, and furnishings. E. C. Strathman was superintendent of construction and James Knox Taylor supervising architect for the Treasury Department. Ground was broken on May 29, 1902, and the cornerstone was laid March 25, 1903. The building was completed in September, 1905 to accommodate 925 federal employees.

Construction of the North third of the building began on September 24, 1936 and was completed May 21, 1938 at a cost of \$1,536,871. This addition extended the classical facade around the north side of the building and furthermore provided an appropriate classic elevation facing the important six block long, Beaux Arts inspired Indiana War Memorial Plaza, terminated at the north by Paul P. Cret's 1917 masterpiece of classic revival design, the Indianapolis Public Library.

A \$2,000,000 program to repair and air-condition the building was undertaken in 1962, resulting in the restoration of the building to its original grandeur.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Indianapolis News, Sept. 2, 1905  
 Indianapolis News, March 1, 1972, "Federal Buildings Beauty Unknown"  
 by Wayne Guthrie  
 Indianapolis News, August 11, 1966, "Beauty of Federal Courtroom  
 Shall Not Pass" by Jean McNaulty

## 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0 0 0	0 0 0	39	46	13
NE	0 0 0	0 0 0	86	9	24
SE	0 0 0	0 0 0			
SW	0 0 0	0 0 0			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 3 3/4

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

## 11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Bruce E. Goetzman Architect		DATE: Aug. 1, 1973
BUSINESS ADDRESS: Bruce E. Goetzman Architect		
STREET AND NUMBER: 2606 Vine Street		PHONE: (513) 281-7244
CITY OR TOWN: Cincinnati	STATE: Ohio	CODE: 039

## 12. CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

## NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

State Liaison Officer recommendation:

☐ Yes☐ No☐ None
  
 State Liaison Officer Signature

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Liaison Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The recommended level of significance is ☐ National ☐ State ☐ Local

Federal Representative Signature

Date

Title

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date

SEE INSTRUCTIONS